

# \$5m price tag to refill

By Kim Quinlan

CENTRAL Highlands Water will charge almost \$5 million to transmit about \$1 million worth of water through its infrastructure to refill Lake Wendouree.

That's the charge under CHW's water transmission policy.

But the \$5 million price tag is not deterring organisers of the Fill Our Lake campaign in their efforts to raise funds to buy a water right to restore the city icon back to its former glory. They believe any figure is achievable.

CHW chairman John

Barnes acknowledged yesterday that while the cost to buy the water was \$500,000 to \$1 million, the transmission fee to get the water to the lake was \$4.9 million.

"I don't want Central Highlands Water to be seen as the party-poopers here, but the people behind this campaign have failed to do their basic homework," Mr Barnes said.

Under the CHW water transmission policy, people who want to purchase water are charged a standard fee of \$1.40 per kilolitre.

Figures show that Lake Wendouree needs 3500 megalitres of water, mean-



ing that under the standard fees that would be a bill of \$4.9 million for the transmission of the water alone. It is believed another \$500,000 would be needed to actually purchase the water.

Earlier this week Natures



Cargo owner Graham Wilkie announced the campaign to raise community funds for a water right to buy the 3500 megalitres needed to fill the lake immediately. At the time the campaign was launched it was believed

that up to \$1 million was needed to buy the water.

However, Mr Barnes said buyers must pay for water purchased in the Goulburn Valley system to be transmitted.

"There also needs to be assurances that the water is fully treated. There are technical issues in delivering water from the White Swan Reservoir to Lake Wendouree. If the water bought is not part of the reticulation system, those buying it must invest in alternative ways of delivering the water," Mr Barnes said.

He said those behind the campaign to refill the lake

should have made basic inquiries about likely costs and technical issues. "Their \$1 million price tag is way off the mark."

However, the campaign's organiser is not deterred by the higher figure to refill the lake. "It's all achievable ... it's not unrealistic," Mr Wilkie said.

"I am confident that any amount of money to be raised is achievable. Irrespective of what the price tag is, the community wants the lake to be refilled."

Reader comments

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**ON STAGE:** Killer Queen band members Johnny Blunt (Freddie Mercury), Anthony Smith (Brian May), and Chubby (Roger Taylor) will perform at Her Majesty's Theatre tonight.

## Regal revival: long live Queen

THE wait is over for die-hard fans longing for Queen's return to Australia — well, almost

Today at 5pm, Her Majesty's Theatre will host international tribute band Killer Queen, who have been described by Queen guitarist Brian May as "astounding".

The show is the icing on the cake for those who have visited *Queen — the Unseen Archive* since its opening at the Art Gallery of Ballarat last month.

Tickets are \$35 and are available at Her Majesty's Box Office from 4pm today.

Concert-goers can present their concert tickets at the gallery for discount entry to the exhibition.

## House and land, sun and surf: Deb is stoked

By Meg Rayner

WHEN Ballarat resident Deb Davey heard someone knocking on her door late Monday evening, the last thing she expected was a television crew.

The crew from *Better Homes and Gardens* surprised Ms Davey as she was watching the Oscars to tell her she had won a \$500,000 house and land package.

The prize includes a Plantation Home at the Stockland Brightwater Community on the Sunshine Coast — and a lifestyle most can only dream about.

"I think Jason (Hodges) was more excited than I was," she said, laughing.

"I watch the show fairly religiously, it's a family-friendly show and it makes you feel good."

"I saw the competition and I'm not a person that goes into every competition, just specific ones, so I entered."

Ms Davey has had a rough couple of years, and said the prize had done more than lift her spirits.

"This has given me a lot more freedom and options than I had prior to winning."

Her house, which is yet to be built, will have three bedrooms, an open-plan living room, a home theatre, an outdoor entertaining



**WINNER:** Deb Davey with Jason Hodges from *Better Homes and Gardens*.

area and a designer kitchen with stone benchtops, butler's pantry and stainless steel appliances.

Ms Davey will have a say on some colour and design elements before the house is built.

Brightwater is close to some of the Sunshine Coast's best beaches and waterways, close to parks, BBQ facilities, playgrounds, walking trails and more.

Ms Davey is yet to decide whether she will make the big move to Queensland or sell the property, but she is keeping her options open.

"I am stoked, I'm just over the moon and it's just amazing," she said.

## Freemasons to help Royal South Street

THE Freemasons have thrown their support behind the Royal South Street Society as a Platinum Crown Sponsor.

Freemason Victoria will contribute \$5000 annually for the next three years.

It will provide vital assistance to the society in producing the Royal South Street Band competitions, which will now be known as the Freemasons Victoria Festival of the Bands.

The Royal South Street Society Eisteddfod is held from September to November each year.

## Strong interest for action on climate

BALLARAT residents showed a strong interest in taking action on climate change at the recent Solar Cities community presentation.

Residents learnt how to create and manage energy by getting involved in the Central Victoria Solar City project trials.

Ballarat embraced the idea of the Solar Park trial which is linked to the recently built Solar Park at the Ballarat Airport.

The \$42 million Central Victoria Solar City project is funded by the Australian Government's \$94 million Solar Cities Program.

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